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Some Lessons from History

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Promise or Performance

July 14, 1789 the French people rose en masse and took the Bastille. This is reckoned as the birthday of their political liberty. Wonderful dreams of universal brotherhood blossomed in the brains of the dreamers of those days, dreams that it would be well for the world to recall again since there is such an ardent campaign on foot in certain quarters to make us think that the present cures are new discoveries.

May 22, 1790 the French Constituent Assembly passed a decree that,—"The French nation renounces all wars undertaken with a view to conquest and will never employ its forces against the liberties of any people."

This had a pleasing sound and fitted wonderfully into the dreams the philosophers were waiting over the world.

Demagogues seized upon it to ride into power. Love for the plain people became the burden of the budding eloquence of Robespierre. Within three years of the issuing of the above decree this villain had made Paris a shambles with human beings for the victims. Nor was this all. The Assembly passed this on the threshold of the most selfish twenty years of war that had been known in ages.

The sincere dreamers of that hour could not have believed that the whole force of the French nation was shortly to be turned over to cold and selfish ambition of Napoleon Bonaparte to follow him until the bones of three million Frenchmen were to lie scattered from Egypt to Moscow and back to Madrid. Relative to the number of peoples involved the losses of those wars were probably much higher than in the one we have just waged to stop the world ambition of the Kaiser. For a decade and a half the map of Europe was the plaything of the French emperor who parceled out the nations as a farmer might parcel out his land to tenants who would serve him.

Had some man of the stern common sense arisen and told the leaders of the assembly that they were preparing the way for the most terrible war lord that had been known since the Christian era began they would have mobbed him for his pains. Yet that is exactly what these dreamers were doing. They preached a fine ideal of universal brotherhood that was to give a new earth. Out of the tortured centuries of the most brutal kind of oppression the peasants had risen with a blind instinct to strike at something to avenge the cruel wrongs they had endured. Profiting from this feeling, selfish demagogues rose. They proposed great love for the plain people and won the leadership that plunged the nation into the horrors of the Terror.

I have said before that abhorrence of anarchy is one of the most fundamental of human instincts, that men will endure almost any well ordered tyranny that follows a logical sequence rather than tolerate the uncertain excesses of a Robespierre or a Lenin. Herein was the opportunity for the genius of Napoleon. Rising from the shambles of the Terror he became its master and for years directed the virgin forces it had unchained to his own ends. All the continent was at his feet and only the steady persistence of Britain resting behind the sure protection of her fleet finally compassed his downfall and tore his yoke from the world.

While dreamers paint wonderful pictures of the golden age they have prepared for us, demagogues seeking their own profit twitter glibly of their love for the plain people let us turn back the pages of history a century and a quarter and read again some of the things that were said then and see the outcome. That man who shows such a wordy interest in the plain people but who steadfastly seeks to impose his personal will upon the world is dangerous. The wonderful affect-

tion that Robespierre had for mankind was the cloak to cover his ambition.

In Russia there is a condition that if we can rely on the reports that come to us is far more terrible than the Terror was in France. The sane and able leaders were broken and the power passed to the young Kerensky. Whether he was sincere and merely weak or both insincere and weak we can not yet know, and will not know until we have more data. We do know that the power passed into the hands of the brutal and murderous Lenin and Trotsky who on the reports of our own government agents betrayed us into the hands of the Kaiser. The rule of this wild element is spreading while our delegates plan their own peace in conclave as secret as any old diplomacy could reasonably have desired. What goes on behind the closed doors that shelters the "Big Four" we do not know. Only this we do know that the President's promise of "Open covenants, OPENLY ARRIVED AT" is known in the promise and unknown in performance.

Just so sure as men are human we may know that the fundamental rebellion against anarchy will assert itself. Anarchy can come only from the blindest kind of passion that seeks senselessly to destroy. Its leaders are the most brutal and inhuman of beasts that may walk on earth. With the primal passions of the jungle they combine the refinements of brutality that come from an association with more advanced intelligence. The rule of Lenin and Trotsky is in the very nature of things self-limited. Like a case of pneumonia it will either destroy the victim or in a reasonable time there will be a recovery dependent upon the strength of the patient. Usually a nation has sufficient stamina to throw off the poison but it frequently happens that the victim is left weakened for years, possibly generations.

If the red terror that is destroying Russia and eating into the heart of Europe is not stopped it will sweep on until it stands on the bank of the Rhine. How much farther it will go none can say. This we can know, that when it has spent its evil force there will come a reaction to well ordered government and there needs but arise a new Napoleon to engulf the world in a struggle that will make the terrible ordeal through which we have passed but a minor act in the tragedy. As sure as the conditions persist that man will rise. So far neither Lenin nor Trotsky have shown the organizing genius that indicates they are capable of welding the masses into a military machine of super-human power. But in the teeming millions of Russia, Germany, Hungary or elsewhere that genius is finding itself. Like Napoleon our first introduction to him may be in some spectacular performance such as his crossing of the Alps and crushing the opposing leaders on the field of Marengo. Then the hour will have grown too late. While self appointed leaders seek their stubborn will utterly ignoring the people for whom they pretend to speak, the disorder grows apace. If we do not beware we will wake from our dreams rudely like the old French philosophers to find that while we slept selfish men acted and that our liberties are gone. Unless the intelligent public opinion of America rises in overwhelming might to call our drifting leadership to stern account we may find our ourselves upon the rocks. History has always shown that the most dangerous men are those whose performance is counter to their promise.

April 15th is America's great pay day, when one hundred and fifty million dollars in Liberty bond interest will be paid to twenty million families. The Liberty bond interest coupons will be received at the post office in exchange for thrift stamps and war saving stamps you increase your savings with no effort or sacrifice on your part and working for yourself and your country,

It Is Good Business to Subscribe to the

Victory Liberty Loan

IT is freely stated that the VICTORY LIBERTY LOAN should be floated on a business basis. It is contended that the rate of interest and terms should be attractive to banks and investors with idle funds.

We are assured that the terms of the Loan will be attractive, but it matters not what the terms are, there is not enough idle money available to take up a loan of five or six billion dollars.

It would be bad business for the banks to absorb the Loan. It would be bad for the banks and it would be bad for our community.

Good business demands that the banks keep their funds in such shape that they can loan money to their customers when it is needed. If the banks use their funds to purchase Liberty Bonds, their ability to loan money to business men and farmers is lessened. The question is shall the banks loan their money to Uncle Sam or to our people?

If our people buy the Bonds the banks will lend them the money they need to complete the payments. This will not affect the ability of the banks to take care of the loans to our business men and farmers, because the banks can rediscount the notes given for Liberty Bonds and thus replenish their funds.

It is good business for our people to subscribe to the VICTORY LIBERTY LOAN and thus keep the banks free to take care of their regular borrowers.

If business can get the money it needs, more crops will be grown, more goods will be made, more people will be employed.

For purely selfish business reasons our people should subscribe to the VICTORY LIBERTY LOAN. For patriotic reasons, also, we should all do our part. The money raised by the VICTORY LIBERTY LOAN will be largely used to pay for bills already contracted in winning the war. We must keep the credit of our Government untarnished. What American would refuse to do his share in keeping bright the name of our glorious country?

We are not quitters. Let's finish the job as only real Americans know how.

Fifth Victory-Liberty Loan

Last Monday began the fifth and last bond loan. The Victory-Liberty Loan is to put the finishing touches on a job begun two years ago. The last nail will be driven home in this drive, which makes the construction complete, but without which the whole edifice will be weakened.

Our previous loans equipped our boys and put them "over there". The Huns said we couldn't do it, and if we did our boys couldn't fight. It was a handsome and safe boast while 3000 miles of water rolled between. However, difficulties were overcome, obstacles surmounted, and a thin stream of khaki clad boys trickled over. This thin stream, fed by a converge of other streams, and fed by a deluge of dollars and aroused American sentiment, became a mighty stream, and soon the Huns saw that if they hadn't boasted first, they would have had no chance to boast.

The boys attacked their job with enthusiasm backed by the whole American people. They met and matched brawn with the best the Prussian autocrats could produce, and were victorious in every encounter. Alas, many of them will not come back to receive our plaudits, and our hearts go out to those who will no longer respond to earthly tributes, to those who swelled the price America paid for liberty, which cannot be reckoned in dollars and cents.

Now, the actual fighting has subsided, the tumult is stilled, but we cannot forget that we have boys "over there" yet who must be cared for, and returned to their homes. Our duty is not done until the last boy is safe at

his own fireside. It is therefore as important as any other loan.

There is another phase to the question. This loan has to succeed; the money must be forthcoming. This sum has to be raised. If not in the form of a loan, which will bring the money back with a good interest, then in taxes which will not be paid back. Loan or taxes, one or the other. Which is the best business proposition? You will not hesitate. Your patriotism, your gratitude to the "boys", your business sense all tell you. Support the loan and quickly put old Taney once more over the top.

Will Pay in Ostracism

How many generations will it be before the hand of civilization will again be extended to the German? A good many possibly.

Germany will pay in ostracism, in hatred and in distrust and she will pay in other ways as well as in a financial sense. But the Germans have only Germany to blame.

It is not going to be easy for us to forget that she broke through all the conventions of civilized warfare. That her soldiers were turned loose to do their worst wherever they invaded a country. They ran amuck at Louvain, that they plundered in Liege, that they devastated all France, that they destroyed churches, that they plundered like savages.

And no man has ever heard or read in the orders of the old German army of a single one of these looters and murderers being punished for their crimes. We want to recall all these things. Just recall them and keep them in mind while the drive for the Fifth Loan, the Victory Liberty Loan is on.

Jefferson City Letter

April 14th, 1919.

A resolution in the House favors a public health conference to be held at Springfield May 29th to June 1st. It proposes that a bipartisan commission outline a comprehensive statewide educational program whereby all teachers and pupils of our schools receive instruction in the principles of personal hygiene and household sanitation.

The workmen's compensation bill passed by the House and now before the committee in the Senate, will probably be reported out favorably with few amendments. The principal change will be in striking out the state insurance clause and substituting competitive insurance.

The House is to be commended for its advanced step to correct the clerical force abuses by engrossing a bill which limits the number of clerks to 75, the pages to 10, the janitors to 10 and the House elective officers to 14; a total of 109 employees.

In the Governor's biennial message we read: "The state treasury showed a cash balance in the general revenue fund December 31st of \$271,679.24. This balance will be ample to pay any claims that may be presented after December 31st, against any approved appropriation." Last week the House engrossed a deficiency bill providing for the payment of unpaid bills amounting to \$813,000.

The attempt to legalize betting or horse racing by a bill introduced by Representative O'Brien the lone Democratic member from St. Louis, was nipped in the bud when the bill came up for engrossment in the House, by a vote of 61 to 11.

The Elmer-Foster contest in the House was disposed of by the adoption of the majority report of the Committee on Elections, which provides that in view of the charges and counter-charges of irregularities in the election, the county clerk of Dent county is directed to make a recount of the ballots and that the result be certified to the House.

Representative Wagner's bill to give the State Board of Health power to regulate and control social diseases was defeated in the House by two votes.

The criticism that the McCullough-Morgan road bill, which has passed both branches of the Legislature and is now in the hands of the Governor for approval, will destroy the system of building hard-surfaced roads provided for in the Hawes law, is denied by the State Highway Board. In a letter to the governor the board members say that the apportionment of money under the new bill would result in the building of hard surfaced roads as well as good dirt roads.

If the bill introduced by Representative Farris and engrossed in the House becomes law, the MaAllister-Sullivan-Middlekamp scheme to abolish the Tax Commission and transfer many of its functions to the Board of Equalization with unlimited appointive powers, will be knocked into a cocked hat. This bill provides that the state tax rate be reduced from 15 to 10 cents, that all property be equalized at its true value in cash and that the Auditor be secretary of the board with power to appoint a clerk.

In accordance with the new law which authorizes the appointment of three additional Supreme Court Commissioners, the court has appointed the following: Chas. E. Small of Kansas City, Republican; N. A. Mozely of Bloomfield, Republican; and W. T. Ragland of Paris, Democrat. The old commissioners re-appointed are: Robert T. Railey of University City and Jas. T. White of Springfield, Democrats, and Stephen T. Brown of St. Joseph, Republican.

The Kansas City election bills, seeking relief from gang rule and to prevent wholesale fraud, are on the calendar of the House for third reading and final passage.

House are behind these measures. Final passage in the House, which would put the proposition squarely to the Senate, depends on a united front of the Republicans, who have a bare constitutional majority. There are twelve bills in the group of Kansas City election measures. Two of these have passed the House and they are considered as most important. One provides for the adoption of the Australian ballot or blanket system; the other provides that clerks and judges of elections residing or employed in the ward may serve as clerks and judges of election. The ten remaining bills will come up for final passage in a few days. The proposed laws have the endorsement of the Independent Voters' League and are intended to take care of the crooked methods employed in the Northside wards, where it is claimed that in every election from 5,000 to 7,000 fraudulent votes are counted.

The re-districting bills, drafted to correct the Democratic gerrymander under which the Democrats have been enabled to control the senatorial and congressional districts of the state for nearly 50 years, will soon come up for final passage in the House. It cannot be charged that these bills are political or that the proposed districts are unfair to the Democrats. The proposed districts are laid out according to law, irrespective of their political complexion and are compact, contiguous and nearly equal in population. The congressional districts under the bill introduced would normally enable the Republicans to elect about six or seven Congressmen out of the total of sixteen, and are based on population with an average of 200,000. The senatorial districts, as proposed under the re-districting bill, would, under normal conditions give to the Republicans sixteen senators and the Democrats eighteen senators. The greatest number of districts carried by the Republicans under the present gerrymander is twelve. These bills will unquestionably be passed in the House and it remains to be seen whether fairness or politics will control the action of the senate.

The mortgage recording tax bill which had the endorsement of Gov. Gardner as a revenue producing measure, was refused engrossment in the House by a vote of 49 for to 69 against. The principal objection came from the country members irrespective of party lines.

The corporation franchise tax bill, increasing the tax from 75 cents to \$1.00 on the \$1,000 capital stock, passed the house by a unanimous vote. The measure has passed the Senate and is now in the hands of the Governor for approval. It is said that the measure will provide additional revenue to the amount of \$300,000 per year.

The Morgan-McCullough road law, which provides for the distribution of more than \$3,000,000 of state funds among the counties of the state for a system of state highways, was passed by the House by the overwhelming vote of 125 to 4. The Senate bill, which recently passed the Senate, was substituted for the house bill. Representative Morgan of Putnam county, one of the authors of the bill, said the bill contemplates the spending of \$18,000,000 of state and federal money on a system of state highways during 1919, 1920 and 1921. The state will use its state road fund to match the federal money and will then turn over approximately \$60,000 to each county to be used in grading 50 miles road. The only support the counties must furnish are the plans and specifications for the work and in addition build all bridges and culverts over 20 feet wide.